

IN THE CLAIMS: Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A content protection apparatus comprising:
a controller to detect a board coupling condition of a board and a device, the board coupling condition indicating whether the board is coupled to the device or if the board is not coupled to the device, and to perform a shutdown of a system in response to the board coupling condition.
2. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the controller is attached to the board.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is a second board.
5. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an adapter card.
6. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an add-in card.

7. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a connector to couple the board to the second board.

8. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is a printed circuit board.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is a removal of power from at least one of the board and the device.

12. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the controller further to log an event in response to the board coupling condition.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A content protection system comprising:

- a board;
- a device;
- a connector to couple the board to the device;
- an electrical circuit formed among the board, the connector and the device; and
- a controller to perform a shutdown of the system in response to a condition of the electrical circuit when the condition indicates that the board is not coupled to the device.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is at least one of a board, an add-in card, an adapter card and a module.

20. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is a printed circuit board.

21. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an adapter card.

22. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an add-in card.

23. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least a portion of the controller is attached to at least one of the board and the second board.

24. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to detect an uncoupling of the board and the device in response to the electrical circuit, and to perform the shutdown in response to the uncoupling.

25. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to perform the shutdown by ensuring that power is not supplied to the first board and is not supplied to the device.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, the controller to perform the shutdown in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

29. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

30. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the first board and the second board includes inner layer trace signals.

31. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board overlaps the other board in a portion of the other board near the connector.

32. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

33. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

34. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

35. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

36. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

37. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the board has attached thereon a first memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board and wherein the second board has attached thereon a second memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

38. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

39. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the connector is a connector that is difficult to probe.

40. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the connector is a surface mount connector.

41. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the board.

42. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the second board.

43. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller performs the shutdown in response to an open circuit condition of the electrical circuit.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A content protection article comprising:
a computer readable medium having instructions thereon which when executed
cause a computer to:

monitor a board coupling condition of a board and a device, the board coupling
condition indicating whether the board is coupled to the device or if the board is not
coupled to the device; and

perform a shutdown of a system including the board and the device in response
to the board coupling condition.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

55. (Previously presented) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) The content protection article as claimed in claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

60. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

61. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

62. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

63. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

64. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

65. (Previously presented) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

66. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

67. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when the connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

68. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

69. (Previously presented) The content protection system as claimed in claim 68, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Canceled)

73. (Canceled)

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, 12, 17, 19-25, 28-43, 51, 54, 55, 57, and 59-69 are now pending for consideration in the application. Claims 1, 17, 51, and 57 have been amended and claims 3, 9, 10, 13-16, 18, 26, 27, 44-50, 52, 53, 56, 58, and 70-73 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a divisional application for any and all of the non-elected claims.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as not showing certain claimed features of the invention. The Applicants respectfully traverse these objections based on at least the following remarks. The Applicants respectfully point out that the board of FIG 1 is described as, in some embodiments, being an adapter card, an add-in card, or a module, logging of an event is clearly illustrated in FIG 2, a component with a package such as a ball grid array or flip chip array package that is difficult to probe is illustrated, for example, in FIG 3, a connector that is difficult to probe, a surface mount connector, a metal can, etc. are illustrated, for example, in FIG 3. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 11-14, 16-20, 23-29, 31, 51, and 53-69 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,923,099 (Bilir). Claims 5-6, 21-22, 30 and 32-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bilir. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following remarks.

First, it is respectfully pointed out that Bilir does not disclose a content protection apparatus or system. Bilir discloses an intelligent backup power controller that performs graceful shut-down of a processing system based upon the loss of main AC power. No detection is made relating to a coupling condition that is an indication of whether a board and a device are coupled together as specifically recited in the independent claims of the present application. Instead, the uninterruptable power source 30 of Bilir is used to provide power to the processing system 10. The backup controller 50 detects a loss of AC power to the entire system to enable a switch to backup power, triggering a sequence of events to affect the graceful shutdown of the processing system 10. Bilir does not disclose or suggest at least features of the present invention as claimed of detecting a board coupling condition that is indicative of a coupling between a board and a device in order to perform a shutdown in response to the board coupling condition. At best, Bilir discloses a backup controller to shut down a system when AC power is not provided to the system. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the